



# NEWS RELEASE

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## ***SBA CHIEF OF STAFF HONORED AS DISTINGUISHED SENIOR EXECUTIVE BY PRESIDENT BUSH***

WASHINGTON – Small Business Administration Chief of Staff John D. Whitmore has been recognized by President Bush with the 2002 Presidential Rank of Distinguished Executive award. The prestigious award was presented to Whitmore by the President during a recent ceremony held in Washington.

**“I applaud John Whitmore for the dedication and excellence he has displayed during his years as a leader at SBA,”** said SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto. **“John’s vision has led to the development of several progressive programs aimed at better servicing America’s small business owners. He truly deserves this award.”**

Whitmore has held various positions of leadership at SBA in the offices of Entrepreneurial Development, Government Contracting/Minority Enterprise Development and Hearing and Appeals. From 1991 to 1995 he was the agency’s chief financial officer. In 1995, Whitmore served on the staff of the Appropriations Committee for the U.S. House of Representatives, where he provided consultation on intergovernmental relations.

Later he served as SBA’s associate deputy administrator for Management and Administration. In February 2001, Whitmore was appointed acting administrator of the agency, supporting the transition between the Clinton and Bush Administrations.

Each year, the President recognizes and celebrates a small group of career senior executives with the President’s Rank Award for exceptional long-term accomplishments. Nominees are chosen by their agency heads, evaluated by boards of private citizens and ultimately approved by the President. The evaluation criterion focuses on leadership and results.

Whitmore has served in government over the past 25 years as a senior executive. He is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire and George Mason University School of Law, and is a member of the Bar of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

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